

New Policy for the Welfare of Sanitation Employees

1659. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any proposal to formulate a new policy for the welfare of sanitation employees of the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCOIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No proposal for formulating a new policy for welfare of sanitation employees is under consideration of the Central Government.

This Ministry is however implementing a scheme for rehabilitation of scavengers. Further, Financial assistance at concessional rate of interest is given by the National Safai Karamchari Finance Development Corporation.

Monitoring Cell for Grants to NGOs

1660. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are having a monitoring cell to monitor and supervise the grants released to the NGOs;
- (b) if so, the members of the monitoring cell;
- (c) if not, reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether it will not be proper to constitute a Committee involving State MPs and MLAs for supervision of the funded schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCOIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) There is mechanism to monitor and evaluate the performance

of the voluntary organizations. The monitoring and evaluation is carried out through the State Government, UT administration and Designated Agencies. Second installment of grant-in-aid in each year is sanctioned only after the receipt of satisfactory report from State Government/UT administration or Designated Agencies.

(d) List of NGOs receiving grant-in-aid of last two years have been prepared and sent to all MPs of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. This has been done with the objective of achieving transparency and accountability and to facilitate social audit of the Organizations receiving grant from the Ministry.

Miserly attitude of Government towards funding of welfare schemes for Blinds

1661. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government adopt a miserly attitude towards funding welfare schemes for blinds;
- (b) if so, the reasons for discrimination with the physically challenged disabilities; and
- (c) the action proposed to spend adequately for education of all blind Children as welfare measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Schemes to promote special education including special schools for children with disabilities (including visual impairment) are already being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. As per the National Education Policy and also under the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 children with disabilities, including children with visual disabilities are to be given education in